

PREVENTION WORKS!

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
FEB 04 1997
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NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

In a brand new initiative, the Children's Trust Fund awarded more than \$375,000 to seven Massachusetts Family Centers. Massachusetts Family Centers are designed to be an integral part of the community they serve. They are responsive to the practical needs of a wide range of families, and they represent the best practices in the field of Family Support. They:

- offer a comprehensive menu of activities, programs and resources,
- build on family and community strengths, and
- include parents as partners in Family Center leadership.

The wide variety of activities and services Centers offer is developed by parents and program staff who understand the needs and resources of the local community. Program components may include but are not limited to: parenting education services, support groups, family

Continued on back page

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families • Preventing Child Abuse

Friends of Children's Trust Fund

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GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

Nancy Kerrigan to be 96-97 Spokesperson for Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund

It's no secret that new mom and two-time Olympic medalist Nancy Kerrigan is extremely close to her mother and father. Who can forget those TV pictures of Brenda Kerrigan who is sight impaired, pressed against the TV set at the Olympics to catch images of her daughter? Nancy Kerrigan has often spoken of the importance of her parents in her career and life.

Now, as a new mother, she has even more reason to work with CTF and reach out and help support families and kids. Ms. Kerrigan will be visiting schools which use Kids & Company later this year.



CTF's new spokesperson Nancy Kerrigan

DID YOU KNOW?

Offering new parents information and support, right in their home, is one of the best ways to strengthen families and prevent child abuse.

Newborn home visiting is already successful in Hawaii, where studies have found that 99% of the families with home visitors had no reported abuse or neglect!

In Massachusetts, the state legislature is considering a Newborn Home Visiting Bill which would make newborn home visiting available to any new parent under 21.

Did you know...Studies show as few as three phone calls from constituents can affect legislation. Call CTF at 1-800-252-8403 and find out how ten minutes of your time could help make the Newborn Home Visiting bill a reality.

New CTF Public Service Announcement Features Celebrated Singer Carly Simon

Carly Simon is a celebrated singer and children's author, and a parent. So when it comes to being a celebrity spokesperson for families and kids, "nobody does it better" than Ms. Simon. That's why CTF was thrilled when Ms. Simon agreed to appear in its Public Service Announcement "Guitar String."

The PSA, which is being released December 26, features Ms. Simon saying "parents are like guitar strings. We can make music, or we can get strung out under pressure. And that's when the music stops." She encourages viewers to connect with CTF because "keeping families healthy is what we're all about."

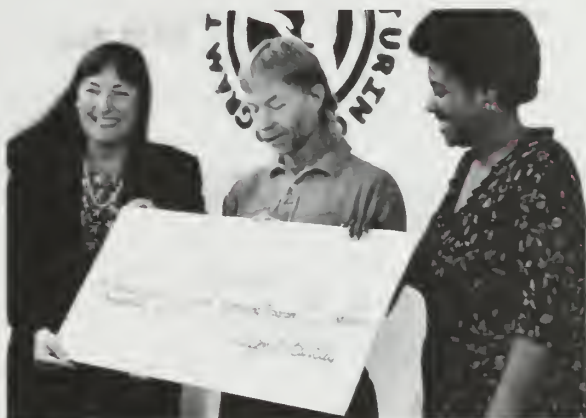
CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley notes, "seeing someone as famous as Carly talk about the stresses of parenting reminds us, no matter who we are or what we do, raising children can be a challenge and having support is important."

This is the third spot in a series of PSAs featuring celebrity parents. The series is being produced and written by Hill, Holliday.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The Spotlight Shines on Parenting Education in Brockton and Fitchburg

The start of the Young Moms MELD, a peer-led support group for teenage mothers in Brockton funded by CTF, was announced at an Open House. The program is the result of Brockton Neighbors United's efforts to revitalize Brockton, and as Mayor John Yunits pointed out, "even if we help just one child with a program like this, we've made a difference."



Fitchburg Mayor Jeffrey Bean, Senator Antoniani, and Representative Emile Gaguén were on hand to see CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley award \$30,000 to Punky Pletan Crass and Christina Hughes of the Fitchburg Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods Coalition (FSHNC). The grant will fund a series of family Nurturing Programs.

Creating Community for "Moms Over 30"

Patterns of child bearing have shifted—in recent years, nearly a quarter of first-time births are to women in their thirties and forties. CTF and the Medford Family Network co-sponsor an innovative group that offers child rearing and educational support for moms over thirty years old.

The group is designed and led by parent Margy Carpenter, who found she needed the support of parents like herself—moms who waited to raise a family until after establishing a career.

The group discusses anything from where to find a bargain bookstore to what to do if you find your babysitter on the couch necking. One mom went through a hard time when her young son never listened when she told him "no." The group put together clues and came to realize that the child was hearing impaired.

The "Moms Over 30" group shows how one parent, who took the initiative to improve her own parenting resources, has touched the lives of an entire group of parents.



Margy Carpenter and her daughter

New CTF Resources for Strengthening Families

Are you a professional who is interested or involved in working with fathers in groups? Join CTF's **Working with Fathers Networking Group**, which meets monthly in Boston at lunchtime. For information, call Jack Miller x308.

Are you looking for some new ways to expand your repertoire of useful and interesting strategies for working with families? Attend CTF's quarterly **Library Seminar Series for Parent Educators**, and learn about the many parenting materials available for loan at CTF's library. For information, call x309.

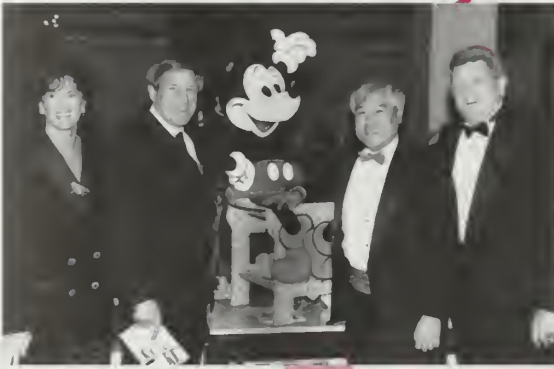
Annual Gala Raises Funds and Friends

CTF brought together 300 friends for its annual Gala and "friend-raiser" on November 16th at Le Meridian Hotel in Boston. Guests enjoyed a performance by City Lights dance company, dancing, and a live and silent auction, while raising over \$65,000 for child abuse prevention. Thanks to Honda Village, Toyota and Volvo for providing a Gala T-shirt to everyone who attended this memorable event.



(Above) Shirley Kelley holding the Gala invitation design, created by her ten-year-old daughter Erin.

(Left) Judith Stephenson, Esq., Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, Fred Wang and Senate Majority Leader Thomas Nartan.



(Right) Paula Stahl, Fred Wang and Ginny Haustan
(Below) Channel 7 News Anchor Katy Abel and Lynn Smith



(Right) CTF Board Chair Dr. Ed Bailey, Danalda Silva and Rev. Dr. Robert Lawrence



RESOURCES

Making a Difference in Western Massachusetts

Last August, the Depot restaurant in Northampton was filled with nearly 90 key individuals from all sectors of the community to hear a presentation of CTF's programs and services. Kathleen Alexander, Director of Education and Outreach, Northwestern District Attorney's Office, acted as host and was key in bringing so many new people to the event.

The workshop was so successful that a group of attendees formed a planning committee for a new fundraising event, scheduled for April 10, 1997 in Hampshire and Franklin counties. Anyone interested in joining the planning committee should contact Arlene Heiss at x305.

Corporations and Foundations That Care About Kids

CTF is grateful for the following Corporate and Foundation gifts.

For Programs Which Strengthen Families

★ **BlueCross and BlueShield of Massachusetts**, \$20,000 to New Bedford's Community Connections Coalition to run the AVANCE program.

"The Children's Trust Fund's history of preventing child abuse by strengthening

families is impressive and strongly influenced our decision."—*Peggy Meehan, Manager, Community Relations of BCBSMA*

For Programs Which Keep Kids Safer

★ **Digital Equipment Corporation** granted \$8,000 for the purchase and distribution of a new video, "What Tadoo With Secrets," for Kids and Company, kindergarten through second grade.

Several companies and foundations provided funding for the Talking About Touching safety program, which teaches safety skills to preschool children and their families, and gives preschool teachers training on child abuse and prevention.

★ **The TJX Foundation** granted \$3,420 for TAT in three Brockton preschools.

★ **The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts** granted \$8,500, with an equal match from CTF, for TAT in 10 Hampden County preschools.

★ **Polaroid** granted \$4,000 at the close of FY 1996 and another \$4,000 at the beginning of FY 1997 for TAT in 8 preschools in New Bedford.

★ **The Stride Rite Foundation** granted \$2,200 for TAT in two preschools in Cambridge.

Fun and Funds for Families

Thanks to the following businesses for contributing to CTF:

★ **National Amusements**, parent company of Viacom, Inc., which held a special charity screening of a Hallmark Family Film Festival film at the Circle Cinemas in Brookline. All proceeds were donated to CTF.

★ **Boston Magazine**, which donated the partial proceeds from the advertising sales of their November Boston Kids section.

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Continued from front page

recreation events, home visiting services for new parents, warmlines services, child care services, and resource library services. Centers also serve as a bridge between families and other resources in the community.

The lead agencies receiving Massachusetts Family Centers program grants are:

Dorchester CARES—serving families in Dorchester

Medford Public Schools—serving families in Medford

Martha's Vineyard Community Services—serving families on Martha's Vineyard

Wayside Youth and Family

Support Network—serving families in Marlboro, Hudson, Westboro, Northboro and Southboro



Families at the Medford Family Center

Valuing Our Children—serving families in the Athol/Orange area

Children's Health Program, Inc.—serving families in Southern Berkshire County

Center for Family Development of Beverly, Inc.—serving families in Salem.

Pioneer Valley 3K Walk Funds Preschool Safety Curriculum

The Exchange Club of Springfield and CTF designated the funds raised at last May's 3K Walk **Prevention Works in Pioneer Valley** to install Talking about Touching in two preschools of Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield Headstart.

CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 15, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Library Seminar Series: "Parenting Education curricula focusing on Discipline."

Wednesday, February 26, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Library Seminar Series: "Parent Education Curricula for Parents of Toddlers and Preschoolers."

Thursday, April 10, 1997, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Hampshire/Franklin Counties CTF Fundraiser.

Saturday, April 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Fall River. *Fall River Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods* family fun day.

Wednesday, April 16, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Library Seminar Series: "Parent Education Curricula for Teen Parents of Young Children."

Saturday, May 10, 1997, 8:00 a.m. sharp at the green of Springfield Technical Community College, CTF's 3K Walk for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect in Springfield.

Monday & Tuesday, May 12-13, 1997, Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro, CTF's Annual Conference on Family Support. **SAVE THE DATE!**

MASS. HS 50.103: 997/SPR ✓

SPRING 1997

PREVENTION WORKS!

NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

The mission of the
Massachusetts Children's
Trust Fund (CTF) is to
mobilize all segments of
the community to
prevent child abuse by
strengthening and
supporting families.

Do you want to:

- decrease child abuse and neglect?
- improve parenting skills?
- improve children's health?
- encourage achievement of mothers?

You can. Our state legislature is considering a Newborn Home Visiting Bill to create the first universally available prevention program for young parents in Massachusetts.

As many of you know, Newborn Home Visiting is a proven and cost-effective way to prevent child abuse and improve the well-being of children and families. If this Bill passes, it will be a huge leap forward for families.

If you care about kids, this is the time to act. Join CTF in making prevention a reality! Call your state representative now, and be a voice for kids, for families and for the future.

Dr. Edward Bailey
Pediatrician,
Baystate Medical Center
CTF Board Chair

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families • Preventing Child Abuse

Friends of Children's Trust Fund

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GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

Simon PSA Released to TV Stations



Keep an eye out for CTF's latest television public service announcement, "Guitar Strings," featuring Carly Simon.

TV Special to Launch National Campaign on Early Childhood

On April 28, ABC-TV will air a prime time special on brain development, directed by Rob Reiner. It will highlight research showing that critical brain development occurs during the first three years of life.

The special launches a national campaign to increase support for programs benefiting newborns. Here in Massachusetts, our goal of universal voluntary newborn home visiting goes hand in hand with this national effort.

Family Story-time Featuring Local Celebrities

From April 21st through 25th, the Arsenal Mall in Watertown will be kicking off the opening of their brand new UPN 38 Kids Clubhouse! As part of the week's activities, CTF will host "Family Story-time" for

parents and toddlers. From 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. each day, local celebrities will read books to participants. Join us for this fun, informal and free family activity!

CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 10, 1997, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Depot in Northhampton. Hampshire/Franklin Counties CTF Friend-raiser Dinner & Silent Auction.

Friday, April 11, 1997, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at CTF's office in Boston, Fathers and Family Network, for professionals who are interested in or are working with fathers. This group meets monthly at CTF; next scheduled is May 16.

Saturday, April 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Angkor Plaza, Cambodian Community Center in Fall River. Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods family fun day.

Wednesday, April 16, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Library Seminar Series: "Parent Education Curricula for Teen Parents of Young Children."

Monday & Tuesday, May 12-13, 1997, at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro, CTF's Annual Family Support Institute, a two-day conference highlighting innovative strategies for working with families.

Saturday, May 17, 1997, 8:00 a.m. sharp at the green of Springfield Technical Community College, CTF's 3K Walk to Benefit Children and Families in Hampden County.

Saturday, October 18, 1997, at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston, SAVE THE DATE for CTF's Annual Gala Auction.

Call 1-800-252-8403 for more information.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Spotlight on Success: Newborn Home Visiting

The Family Network Program at the Martha Elliott Health Center in Jamaica Plain offers a perfect example of what a difference home visiting can make.

Located in the Bromley-Heath Housing Development, the program reaches out to new parents who are considered to be "at risk," offering support and links to resources such as well child care, parenting classes, and housing.

The program's success is clear—for example, participating families have 100% immunization versus 60% in the rest of the health center population.

Shirley, the 19-year-old mother of a one-year-old son, has been part of the program since her son's birth. She credits her home visitor with teaching her to be the best parent possible.

"Betty, my home visitor, taught me all about the signs and symptoms of illness so that when my baby got sick I didn't panic like my girlfriends and run off to the emergency room. I knew what to do and knew that Betty was there if I had questions," says Shirley, looking confident and happy.

When you compare the cost of a home visitor at \$27 per hour versus an average of \$480 per hour at a Boston hospital emergency room, it's clear that home visiting makes good

fiscal sense. It also makes good common sense for children and parents.

The first three years of a child's life are a time of unparalleled physical, intellectual, language,



Newborn Home Visiting programs offer guidance, advice and resources to young families in need of support.

social and emotional development. Yet, Shirley was surprised when her home visitor brought over a book to read to the baby.

"I didn't understand why I should read to my baby if he couldn't understand books yet. But Betty told me how it would help him learn."

Shirley has continued to enjoy reading to her son. She has the knowledge and skills to make sure his development is on target. The home visiting program has made all the difference for Shirley and her son.

DID YOU KNOW?

Child abuse and neglect costs the Commonwealth approximately half a billion dollars each year to investigate reports and to provide "after the fact" services such as foster care.

Young parents with home visitors are more likely to complete high school, or GED, and less likely to have subsequent pregnancies than parents without visitors.

To date, 36 states are working to establish home visitor services, as part of a national initiative called Healthy Families America.

Annual 3K Walk To Benefit Children and Families in Hampden County May 17th

Join us on Saturday, May 17th for **Prevention Works!**, a 3K walk sponsored by CTF and the Exchange Clubs of Springfield. The walk will be led by honorary hosts Brenda Garton of WWLP-TV22, Bo Sullivan of 93 HYN-FM, Dan Yorke of WHYN NewsTalk 560, CTF Board Chair Ed Bailey, Dr. Andrew Scibelli of STCC, Senators Brian Lees and Linda Melconian, Springfield Mayor Michael Albano, and Springfield Chief of Police Paula Meara. WWLP-TV22 and 93 HYN-FM have signed on as official media sponsors for the event.

The walk will begin at Springfield Technical Community College at 8:00 a.m. and end on the steps of Springfield City Hall. All walkers



Brenda Garton, WWLP-TV22 Anchor

photo by Jack Redwitz

receive a FREE ticket to the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast, sponsored by the Spirit of Springfield, as well as a walk tee-shirt and a balloon! Visit a CVS pharmacy in Hampden county for registration materials or call CTF.

Hampshire/Franklin Counties "Friend-raiser"

On April 10, 1997, a friend-raising dinner in honor of Kathy O'Neill Alexander, Director of Education and Outreach for the Northwest District Attorney's Office, will be held at the Depot in Northampton at 6:00 p.m. Attorney General Scott Harshbarger will be the featured

speaker. WWLP-TV22's Brenda Garton will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event, which will include a silent auction and buffet dinner. Tickets are \$25 per person. For tickets and information, please call CTF.

Nancy Kerrigan Visits Local Schools on Behalf of CTF

In February and March, **Olympic Figure Skater Nancy Kerrigan** laced up her sneakers and visited schools on behalf of CTF. She spoke to children at both the South Elementary School in her hometown of Stoneham and the Dalbeare Elementary School in Wakefield about an important lesson – **how to stay safe!** In skits with the students, Kerrigan emphasized the safety rules "**use the buddy system**", "**check first**", and "**no, go and tell.**" Television and newspaper coverage of Kerrigan's visits



photo by Brittany Vessey

Earlier this year, Nancy Kerrigan visited with students at Dalbeare Elementary in Wakefield on behalf of CTF's Child Safety Program to talk about personal safety.

brought public attention to CTF's safety initiative and the importance of prevention education.

RESOURCES

Third Annual Fall River Family Event To Be Held April 12, 1997

CTF will sponsor the third annual Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods event on Saturday, April 12, 1997 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Angkor Plaza Cambodian Community Center. CTF has partnered with the YMCA of Greater Fall River, and the YMCA facilities will be free to families all afternoon.

This celebration of families offers free food, courtesy of local neighborhood merchants and Stop & Shop, family entertainment, and information on family support services. Committee co-chairs Cathy



Assad and Cliff Wright, and Fall River Mayor Ed Lambert, Senate Majority Leader Thomas Norton, and Representative Michael Rodrigues will host the festivities.

CTF Parenting Education and Support Program Grants Available

CTF is preparing for the selection of the FY '98 Parenting Education and Support Grants. The Request for Response is now available and the deadline for applying is April 28, 1997 at 5 p.m. These grants of up to \$2,500 are for parenting educa-

tion and support programs serving parents with children ages birth to six.

If you are interested in receiving the RFR, please call CTF's Parenting Education Grants Manager at (800) 252-8403, x309.

Corporations and Foundations That Care About Kids

CTF is grateful for the following support.

For Programs Which Strengthen Families

★ **Friends for Children** granted \$7,500 for parenting education and support programs in Boston.

★ **Harold Brooks Foundation** granted \$12,000 for funding the second year of MELD Young Moms at Brockton Neighbors United.

★ **PARTNERS HealthCare System, Inc.** granted \$5,000 in support of CTF's annual conference for parent educators. The Family Support Institute.

For General Support

★ **Anonymous donor** contributed \$2,000 for CTF's general endowment fund.

★ **Florence V. Burden Foundation** granted \$5,000 for general operating expenses.

What is the Newborn Home Visiting Bill?

The landmark Newborn Home Visiting Bill, which is currently before Massachusetts legislature, would establish a voluntary, comprehensive network of home visiting programs. This pilot program would be offered to all first-time parents under age 21.

The Bill would expand upon existing home visiting programs, which are often limited to serving at-risk parents or are restricted to only a few visits.

Visits would be offered to parents prenatally or from the time of their child's birth for up to three years, depending on a family's needs. Parents would receive support, information and connections to existing community and medical resources.

The Bill has wide appeal and is supported by the Healthy Families Massachusetts Coalition and many groups, such as the United Way's Success By 6 Leadership Council. Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran, speaking in support of newborn home visiting, said "we can construct a model service which benefits every taxpayer and citizen in Massachusetts."



Massachusetts Needs Newborn Home Visiting

What can you do to help?

CTF has developed a one-sheet that explains how to call your legislator and show your support for this important bill. Every call counts!

Call CTF at (800) 252-8403 to receive this fact sheet. Call (617) 722-1455 to reach your State Senator and (617) 722-2000 to reach your State Representative. In the Senate, the bill is called #479, and in the House, the bill is called #3064.

Ann, a parent in Reading, shares her experience:

"I never called my state legislator because I didn't think it would matter and I'm not 'into' politics. Then I heard that only three calls make a difference, so I gave it a try.

I was pleasantly surprised. The aide I spoke with was very interested in what I had to say. I'm glad I called—it was easy to do."

SUMMER 1997

PREVENTION WORKS!

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MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Congratulations! Your letters and phone calls to your State Representatives and Senators on behalf of the Newborn Home Visiting Bill worked! You made sure that the Legislature understood the importance of newborn home visiting in the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

The bill sailed through the Joint Committee on Human Services and Elderly Affairs and has been sent to the Policy & Steering Committee. Please keep educating your legislators about the value of newborn home visiting to ensure the bill's passage. If you need information on the bill or its status, please call CTF.

We are also pleased to announce that the Legislature, in a separate move, has included \$5 million to fund a newborn home visiting program for first-time mothers under 20 years of age. This funding is part of the state's FY '98 budget. We are clear that this would not have happened without your persistence in educating your legislators about how newborn home visiting makes good social policy and solid fiscal sense.

Suzin Bartley
Executive Director
CTF

Dr. Edward Bailey
Pediatrician, Baystate Medical Center
CTF Board Chair

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

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SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

Broad-based Support for Newborn Home Visiting

On May 29th, a distinguished panel of business, city, state and religious leaders joined parents, service providers and child development experts to give testimony in support of the Newborn Home Visiting Bill. At this public hearing, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger highlighted statistics which pointed to the bill's potential to prevent future crime. Joe Faherty, President of the AFL/CIO, talked about the need to support working families. Dr. T. Berry Brazelton spoke movingly about the emotional attachment between babies and parents. Among the other panelists who testified on behalf of newborn home visiting



Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and
Boston Mayor Thomas Menino

were: Mayor Thomas Menino; Paul O'Brien, President, the O'Brien Group; Reverend Ray Hammond, President, Ten Point Coalition; and Dr. Maryanne Wolf, Tufts University.

CTF Awards Presented at Legislative Breakfast

Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran and the Governor's Chief



Speaker of the House Thomas Finneran and the
Governor's Chief Policy Advisor Mary-Lee King

Policy Advisor Mary-Lee King were honored as the 1997 recipients of CTF's "Valuing Our Children" awards for their outstanding work on behalf of the Commonwealth's children. The awards were presented in April at the annual CTF legislative breakfast. Last year's recipient was Senator Thomas Norton, who, along with Representative Barbara Gardner, is a lead legislative sponsor of the Newborn Home Visiting Bill.

Editorial Coverage of Newborn Home Visiting Expands Public Awareness

The *Boston Globe* led its editorial column on June 2, 1997 with "Strengthening young families," which endorsed the Newborn Home Visiting Bill. On April 23, 1997, the *Boston Globe* published "How we can make life better for Massachusetts newborns," an editorial piece

written by the Children's Trust Fund's Executive Director Suzin Bartley and Director of Public Education Shereen Tyrrell. These published pieces were a major step forward in raising public awareness about the benefits of a universal newborn home visiting program.

The Healthy Families America standards for a successful newborn home visiting program are now available for those who are interested in reviewing and providing feedback. These are the program standards which will be used in developing Massachusetts' Newborn Home Visiting Program. The Request for Response (RFR) for agencies who are interested in providing newborn home visiting services in Massachusetts will be issued by CTF in early August. Please call 1-800-252-8403 to request the HFA standards or to be added to the RFR mailing list.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Brockton's Young Moms MELD Program Helps Teens Build Better Lives

Sara, who had to drop out of high school when she had a baby, felt that her choices as a young, single mother were limited. Then she took part in the Young Moms MELD program run by Brockton Neighbors United and found guidance and peer support, and learned how to become financially independent.



Brockton's Young Moms MELD program

"Sara saw how other girls were able to go to school, get their own jobs, drive their own car, and manage the costs of raising a child," says Kathy Kelley, MELD program coordinator. "Now Sara is enrolled in a GED program and is interested in pursuing a career as a home health aide, so she can help other young moms."

Thanks to a \$55,000 grant from CTF, the nationally recognized Young Moms MELD program is being replicated for the first time in Massachusetts. What makes MELD special is that the group is led by women who were adolescent mothers themselves and who can relate to the concerns of young mothers. Topics covered by the group range from parenting concerns and techniques to budgeting, housing and stress management.

Brockton's MELD program has been very successful. Some participants have enrolled in high school or GED programs, others have landed full-time jobs, and one is headed off to college in the fall.

The program provides transportation, child care, and a meal for the young moms at each meeting. Nearly 30 young moms have taken part since the program's inception in the late fall of '96, with a 100% attendance rate.

"It is wonderful to see the growth in these young women," comments Kelley. "Each of them, with the support of other group members, has had their own successes. Most importantly, they have developed more positive and realistic attitudes towards parenting."

Nationally, statistics on MELD programs show that participating moms feel more confident and capable, more self-sufficient, and less isolated.

Research also shows that 87% of MELD participants did not become pregnant a second time during the two-year MELD program and that 84% of MELD young mothers complete high school—demonstrating that teen mothers in MELD groups make good decisions for themselves and their families. The young mothers' children also benefit greatly; statistics show they are healthier and more ready to learn.

Parenting Education and Support Program Grants Awarded

After an extensive community review process, CTF has chosen the recipients of the FY '98 Parenting Education and Support Program Grants. These are grants of up to \$2,500 for parenting education and support programs serving parents with children ages birth to six. This year 80 programs were selected with a total grant award of \$178,200.

An Eventful Spring for CTF

Lt. Governor Paul Cellucci proclaimed April Child Abuse Prevention Month in the state of Massachusetts at the John Winthrop School, which uses the CTF-funded *Talking About Touching* program.

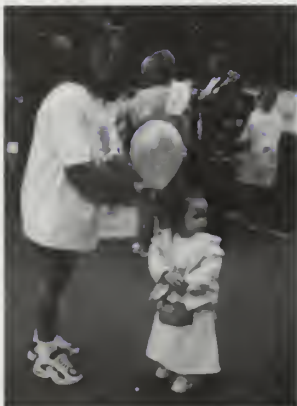


On April 10, over 160 guests attended the first annual Frienderiser and Auction for Hampshire/Franklin counties! The event raised over \$7,000 which will support CTF programs in those communities. Kathy O'Neill Alexander was honored by Attorney General Scott Harshbarger (pictured at left) for her dedication to children's issues.

For the third Year, CTF sponsored "Fall River Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods." This year, the event was held in collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Fall River.



CTF's Family Story-Time at the UPN 38 Kids Clubhouse/Arsenal Mall in April was a huge success! Local celebrities helped CTF deliver the message to parents of how important it is to read to kids by volunteering their time to read children's stories! CTF would like to thank Steve Heinze of the Boston Bruins, Margie Reedy (pictured at left) of UPN 38 PrimeNews, Sue Tabb and Matt Siegel of KISS 108-FM, Deborah Delmestro - "Sister Robert Ann" of Nunsense, and Pebbles of JAM'N 94.5, as well as UPN 38, the Arsenal Mall, and Omni Foods, who provided juice and cookies to participants.



On May 17th, close to 200 walkers stepped out for Prevention Works!, the third annual 3K walk sponsored by CTF and the Exchange Clubs of Springfield, which helped to raise public awareness about child abuse prevention in Hampden County.

Gala Promises Glitz at the Ritz

The annual CTF Gala Friendraiser & Auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 1997 at the Ritz-Carlton and will honor UMass President William Bulger for his leadership in preventing child abuse. Attendees will dance to the tunes of the Tom LaMark Orchestra, enjoy a buffet dinner, and have the chance to bid on exciting and unique auction items such as a beautiful strand of

pearls from Tiffany's, VIP seating tickets to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a weekend package at the Four Seasons Hotel, vacation packages, sports memorabilia, and more!

For more information or to donate an auction item, please call 1-800-252-8403, ext. 310.

Corporations and Foundations That Care About Kids

Dorchester Neighborhood Houses, and \$25,000 will leverage support for the second year of the program. Funding the first MELD Young Dads program in New England positions the Riley Foundation as a leader in the national call for communities to address the needs of young fathers.

★ **John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company** granted \$2,500 for a parenting education and support program in Boston.

★ **Eastern Enterprises/Boston Gas** granted \$1,100 for the child safety curricula *Talking About Touching* for a preschool in Lynn.



Pictured from left to right are: Peter Blute, Massport Executive Director and CEO; Tom Kinton, Director of Aviation, Massport; CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley; and Bill Noonan, Sales Director, N.E. Region, British Airways.

★ **Jack Conway & Company Realtors** contributed \$1,000 from their 40/40 Celebration Fund. Marshfield resident Lynn Vogl chose CTF to receive this donation. Conway & Company Executive Vice President Tom Rudolph presented the check to CTF.

CTF is grateful for the following support.

For Programs Which Impact Families

★ **The Mabel Louise Riley Foundation** granted CTF a total of \$100,000; \$75,000 will fund one year of MELD Young Dads program in collaboration with Dorchester CARES and Federated

For General Support

★ **British Airways** contributed \$14,564 to CTF; the money was raised in their recent "Pay What You Weigh" promotion to introduce their new morning flight to London. On May 9, the first 100 lucky customers in line were weighed on the baggage scale and paid that amount for round-trip tickets to London! All of the proceeds were donated to CTF. Visit British Airways on the internet, at www.British-airways.com.

If you are interested in doing a promotion with CTF to fund prevention programs, please call 1-800-252-8403.

Family Support Institute Held in May

Once again, CTF is leading state efforts to ensure that the latest strategies in family support are reaching Massachusetts communities. CTF's annual two-day Family Support Institute brought together over 800 family support providers who had the opportunity to learn innovative strategies for working with families from national experts. Keynote speakers at the conference were Kyle Pruett, MD,* Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven, Conn., and Margaret Blood, Vice President of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay's Success By 6 program in Boston.

One Institute participant commented, "Thank you for providing an all-day format for the workshops. This provided for more in-depth skill development and extensive discussion on successful strategies."

DID YOU KNOW?

*Based on extensive research by Dr. Kyle Pruett, there are profound positive effects on children's development when they have a father who plays a visible and nurturing role in their young life.

Children are more likely to:

- have stronger coping and adaptation skills
- be better equipped to solve problems
- have improved cognition, competence and curiosity
- stay in school longer
- have longer lasting relationships
- have higher work productivity

and are less likely to:

- gender-stereotype others

There are also significant effects on men who play an active role in their child's development.

They are more likely to:

- have better health overall
- have higher self-esteem and a more positive self-image
- have more satisfaction with work

CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 12, 1997, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Fathers and Family Network, for professionals who are interested in or are working with fathers. This group meets monthly at CTF; upcoming meetings will be held October 10 and November 14.

Tuesday, September 16, 1997, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Springfield. PESP Training Series: Focus on Discipline. Open to all past and present PESP and Mass Family Center applicants.

Tuesday, September 23, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at CTF's office in Boston. Library Seminar Series: Selecting Curriculum—An Overview of CTF's Library. Open to all past and present PESP and Mass Family Center applicants.

Thursday, September 25, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Northampton. Celebrate the opening of the CTF Western Mass. Resource Library housed in the Northampton Prevention Center! Open to all past and present PESP and Mass Family Center applicants.

Saturday, October 18, 1997, 7:00 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton in Boston. Annual Gala Auction.

Monday, November 3, 1997, at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. Fifth Annual Conference for Parent Educators sponsored by CTF and Wheelock College Center for Parenting Studies.

Call 1-800-252-8403 for more information.

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Healthy Families Program Update

The planning for the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program is well under way. Proposals from community agencies across the state that are interested in being newborn home visiting service

providers are currently being reviewed by CTF and the Department of Public Health. Contracts will be awarded in November, and **Family Partners (home visitors) will be making their first visits in December!**

To help ensure that every young parent will have access to the best possible services, CTF has chosen experts from Tufts University Eliot-Pearson Child Development Center to develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation.

Educating the public about the availability of home visiting is also part of the home visiting program, and CTF is currently selecting an agency to provide expertise in public relations and advertising.

Newborn home visiting has enormous potential to improve children's and parents' lives. The more people that know about the

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

Continued inside

Children's Trust Fund



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If you are receiving multiple copies of this newsletter, or are receiving it in someone else's name, please notify us so that we may update our mailing list.

CTF Welcomes Sarita Rogers

Sarita Rogers has joined CTF as the Healthy Families Program Manager. She is responsible for the development, implementation and ongoing management of the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Program.

Sarita, who is fluent in Spanish, is a 1997 graduate of the Master in

Public Policy program of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Most recently, she was part of the Healthy Start Hawaii network as a Home Visitor with the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Hana Like Home Visitor Program. She is deeply committed to home visiting as an extraordinarily effective strategy for supporting families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

CTF Establishes Family Support Training Center



CTF's Family Support Training Center (FSTC) sponsors conferences, offers statewide trainings, houses a Boston resource library, and provides opportunities for technical assistance. The goals of the Family Support Training Center for FY98 are:

- 1) Establish a Western Mass. Resource Library in Northampton.
- 2) Establish a training program for Newborn Home Visiting.
- 3) Continue to sponsor conferences for family support professionals, such as the parenting education conference on November 3 and the Family Support Institute in April 1998. In a new initiative, CTF is co-sponsoring a conference on fatherhood for providers who work with fathers, November 5 in Randolph, Mass.
- 4) Expand Library Seminar Series. CTF's FREE Library Seminar Series is set to begin this fall. Topics include:

- Overview of General Parenting Education Curricula
- Curricula for Teen Parents
- Choosing Curricula for Specific Ages & Stages
- Curricula for Culturally Ethnically Diverse Populations

Please call Amy Kraft at 1-800-252-8403, ext. 309 for more information.

Fifth Annual CTF Conference Features James Garbarino

Nationally recognized author and Cornell University professor James Garbarino will be the keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Conference on parenting education sponsored by CTF, Wheelock College Graduate School Center for Parenting Studies, and Parent Educators Network. Garbarino, who has authored over 15 books, will discuss "Raising Children in a Socially Toxic Environment," a topic on which he authored a book in 1995.

This conference, which will be held November 3 at the Royal Plaza in Marlborough, will feature seminars, workshops and research forums for parenting education professionals. It is funded by Partners Healthcare System, The Lowell Institute, and CTF. For more information, please call (508) 583-2350, ext. 232.

COVER STORY—HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM UPDATE

program, the more successful it will be. We encourage everyone to spread the word—let parents, friends, family and professionals, such as pediatricians, know that statewide newborn home visiting for young parents is about to begin!

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

CTF Awards Four Scholarships to Parent Educators

CTF recently expanded its commitment to parenting education by awarding scholarships to attend the Parenting Education Certificate Program at Wheelock College.

Nearly 20 applicants applied to CTF for the \$4,000 scholarships. Four applicants were selected based on:

- demonstrated experience in the field of parenting education and family support
- clear commitment to the field—both personally and professionally

- understanding of the importance of parenting education

This is the first time that CTF has awarded such scholarships. Those selected to receive these scholarships began classes at Wheelock in September 1997. Scholarship recipients are: Ann Ayoub, Healthcare of Southeastern Mass., Taunton; G. Priscilla Brewer, MSPCC, Boston; Joanna Fisher, Valuing Our Children, Orange; and Susan Jones, The ARC of Franklin County.

Parenting Education and Support Programs Applauded by Legislators

Many of the 80 parenting education and support programs that received CTF funding (up to \$2,500) for fiscal year 1998 have begun.

CTF recently released announcements to local newspapers that included endorsements from nearly 40 state legislators whose communities received funding. Some of the comments were:



"The Children's Trust Fund helps us make Massachusetts a true Commonwealth. This public-private partnership strives to make the future more promising for all children, which is a primary responsibility of government. By helping make stronger families, we are making a better Commonwealth."

Senate President Thomas F. Birmingham, Middlesex, Suffolk, Essex

"I am very pleased with the Children's Trust Fund grants to parenting programs in my district. Supporting such local efforts not only helps parents and their children, but also strengthens our whole community."

Representative Edward G. Cannally, 31st Middlesex

"Parent education and support of healthy early childhood development are important services we need to offer."

Representative Barbara Gardner, 8th Middlesex

"This money will go a long way toward improving family services in the North Central region, which in turn will help to strengthen our community. I appreciate the hard work of the Children's Trust Fund in supporting these excellent programs."

Senator Robert Antoniani, Worcester and Middlesex

"I am grateful to the people of the Children's Trust Fund and the agencies in my district who are performing the vital work of helping build strong, healthy families."

Senator Stanley Rosenberg, Hampshire and Franklin

Spotlight on Success: Massachusetts

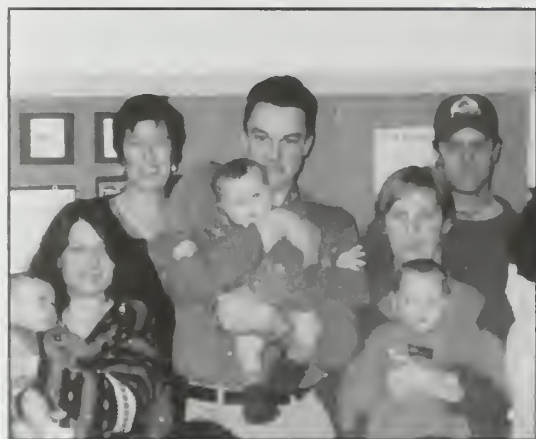
The Massachusetts Family Centers (MFC) offers families with children ages 0-6 a comprehensive range of community-based services and activities.

Part of the MFC's success stems from the fact that local parents not only have participated in activities, but also have played an integral role in the planning, decision-making and provision of services. This

Kimberly, a parent on Martha's Vineyard who has been on the island for only ten months, regularly attends playgroups at the center with her one-year-old son. "The Family Center is just such a godsend. I am meeting people—mothers—that I can talk to and kind of relate stories with, and my son is meeting kids his own age and is able to interact with them."

The CTF grant, which was awarded to Martha's Vineyard Community Services, Inc., has opened the door to hundreds of families like Kimberly's. "Without this grant we would not have this home base," says Markwica. "It is a true visual entity for the community. This center creates an environment that says kids and parents are really important."

At the opposite end of the state, parents are also



encourages parents to recognize and use their strengths for their benefit and for the benefit of those around them.

The **Martha's Vineyard Family Center in Vineyard Haven** offers a perfect example of what a difference these family centers can make in the lives of parents and children. One of the main issues facing parents in this community is isolation from other families. The MFC's activities and classes address this issue by allowing for a great deal of interaction among parents and children. "In this way," says Susan Markwica, the Center's coordinator, parents "get to see a variety of parenting styles, and the value of this is that they come to see they are making a choice in how they parent. This then opens the door to other choices."

The Family Center is just such a godsend. I am meeting people—mothers—that I can talk to and kind of relate stories with, and my son is meeting kids his own age and is able to interact with them.

A Parent

benefiting from the Massachusetts Family Centers. Families initially come to the **Family Center in Great Barrington** for a variety of reasons; most of them for concrete basic needs such as food, affordable housing and child care. These needs

Setts Family Centers

are addressed through a number of programs and referral services. Emphasis is also placed on empowering the families for the future.

Illness and unemployment were creating a lot of stress for Bruce* and Diane's* family when they first came to the Family Center. One of their young children was even showing severe signs of stress at the situation. Diane came to the center to attend a GED program so she could obtain her degree and find a good job. The family's encounter with the center may have started off with a GED program, but it grew into much more. Diane was introduced to the clothing exchange, a volunteer-run program that is one of the most popular at the center. She began to volunteer, and eventually recruited others she knew to do the same. Bruce also became involved, attending the father's group and volunteering to help with the

participate in a volunteer training for the Family Center. I felt like a million dollars."



Claudette Callahan is the Family Support Network coordinator at Children's Health Program, Inc., the organization that received the MFC grant. "When people are able to give back in some way, their progress is quicker because it adds to their self-esteem," comments Callahan. "They begin to take ownership of the center, feeling more confident in their abilities as parents and as individuals."

Claudette is very thankful for the grant from the Children's Trust Fund. "It has enabled us to open a space," she said. "We have never before had a space where the families can come in and the children can play close by." Now, with the greater accessibility, the families can take advantage of the many services offered, such as the clothing exchange or parenting classes, and know

their children are in a safe, child-friendly environment only steps away from them. By helping families with their basic needs, their children benefit greatly.



computers at the center. Now, they have started their own business, and Bruce has begun to do some computer consulting on the side. Bruce found a renewed sense of faith in himself through his activities at the center. "When I was asked to

**Names have been changed.*

Gala Auction at the Ritz-Carlton

Attendees at the '97 CTF Gala Friendraiser are in for a treat! The Ritz-Carlton will be the setting for the annual black-tie affair, which will be held October 18, 1997. Guests will have the chance to bid on a variety of exciting and unusual auction items.

For example, the New England Aquarium has generously donated a "dive in the shark tank" for scuba-certified bidders! John Hancock is offering two numbers for the 1998 Boston Marathon, and brunch at their prime location to view the Marathon. Four tickets to a Fleet Center luxury box for a Celtics game were donated by WSBK-TV, UPN38. If you are looking for rest and

relaxation, look no further than Block Island—a Mother's Day weekend getaway awaits the right bidder!

Local television and radio celebrities have shown their support by donating autographed copies of their favorite children's books for auction. Local celebrities who will join us at the event include Katy Abel, WHDH-TV; Karen Marinella, WLVI-TV; Margie Reedy, UPN38; NECN; and Tory Ryden, WFXT-TV.

Proceeds from our annual gala fund parenting education and family support programs.

For more information, please call CTF at 1-800-252-8403, ext. 310.

Contributors That Care About Kids

The following is a list of individuals and companies that are supporting the*

1997 CTF Gala Friendraiser on October 18th.

Benefactors (contributed \$2,500 or more)

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CTF gratefully acknowledges the many donors who contributed to CTF in memory of Angie Magnani, mother of state Senator David Magnani.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN WESTERN MASS.!

CTF needs 20–25 people on **Sunday, October 26th** to volunteer at Riverside Park in Agawam for their annual Hallow-scream event from 12–5 p.m. All proceeds from two attractions, the Pumpkin Patch and the Trick-or-Treat Village, will go to CTF!

If you would like to help out by volunteering at one of these attractions, please call CTF at 1-800-252-8403, ext. 305. Happy Halloween!